

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising a container, a catheter handle having a first interlocking mechanism and at least one catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion in a urinary canal and an opposite distal end and having a second interlocking mechanism, the container having a cavity adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element, said catheter handle adapted to be interlocked with the catheter element via engagement of the first interlocking mechanism with the second interlocking mechanism of the catheter element so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together, the catheter handle further and including a sleeve section adapted to surround a portion of said container, said catheter handle is configured to be detached from said catheter element and from said container.
2. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be attached to said container assembly.
3. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is shorter than said container or shorter than said catheter element.
4. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein a distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of said cavity is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having a distal opening zone with an exclusion element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.
5. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein said exclusion element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.
6. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.
7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a lubricating medium.
8. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said catheter element has a hydrophilic coating.
9. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said container includes a sealing means element for sealing said cavity.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a catheter device, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a catheter assembly having a container assembly, said container assembly including a catheter element which has a proximal end adapted for insertion in a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, the container assembly further including a container with a cavity adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element and a catheter handle having a sleeve section surrounding a portion of said container;

b) detaching the catheter handle from the container assembly and from the catheter element;

c) connecting the catheter handle to the catheter element in a different position from that in which the sleeve section surrounded the portion of said container so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together via an interlocking mechanism; and

d) removing the catheter element from the container.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said step of detaching the catheter handle includes removing the sleeve section from around the container portion and the step of connecting includes interlocking a proximal end of said handle with the distal end of said catheter element.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising the step of removing the catheter handle from the catheter element after catheterization.

13. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catheter handle is adapted to be coupled with said assembly in two different configurations, movement of said catheter handle from a first configuration to a second configuration being effected by detaching said catheter handle from both said catheter element and said container.

14. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 13, wherein said sleeve section surrounds a portion of said container in said first configuration and is interlocked with said catheter element in a substantially linear arrangement therewith in said second configuration, said catheter handle when detached defining a third configuration in which said catheter handle is physically separate from both said container and said catheter element.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 4, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.

16. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising: a container having a cavity; at least one catheter element with a proximal end adapted for insertion into a urinary canal and an opposite distal end, said container cavity being configured to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element; and
a catheter handle having a sleeve section and being adapted, in a first configuration, to be attached to said container assembly with said sleeve section surrounding a portion of said container and, in a second configuration, to be interlocked with said catheter element via an interlocking mechanism so that the catheter handle and the catheter element are mechanically locked together in a substantially linear arrangement therewith, said catheter handle being configured to be physically detached from said catheter element and from said container when being moved from said first configuration to said second configuration.
17. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 16, wherein a distal section of said catheter element has at least one protruding part and wherein a proximal compartment of said cavity is adapted to accommodate a proximal section of said catheter, said proximal compartment having a distal opening zone with an exclusion element adapted to exclude said distal section of said catheter element from entering said proximal compartment.
18. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein a distal end of said sleeve section is smaller in diameter than said protruding part of said catheter element and is adjacent a proximal side of said protruding part in said first configuration and adjacent a distal side of said protruding part in said second configuration.
19. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein said exclusion element includes a radially inwardly extending protrusion in the cavity.
20. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein at least a part of said distal opening zone is flexible.